

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE ANNOUNCES VOLUNTARY NUTRITION STANDARDS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

PHOENIX (Thursday, May 24, 2007) – Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today released Voluntary Arizona Nutrition Standards for high schools. The legislature has adopted nutrition standards for grades K-8, but, despite repeated efforts by the Department of Education and others concerned with student nutrition, has declined to adopt the standards for high school students.

Some high schools and unified districts, such as Phoenix Union and Scottsdale, have already voluntarily adopted nutrition standards. The Department of Education is attempting to accelerate this process, by releasing uniform voluntary standards, and urging parents over the summer to request their school boards to adopt the voluntary standards for high schools.

Horne stated: “When I first took office in 2003, I proposed nutrition standards. Schools resisted, arguing that they were making money by selling soda and candy. I felt that there were better ways for schools to make money than pushing sugar and saturated fat on kids. After I calmed down, I agreed to institute a pilot study to prove that schools could make just as much money selling healthy foods such as low-fat milk, fruit juice, water, granola bars, and low-fat yogurt.”

Horne added: “Obesity and diabetes has become a wide-spread problem among students. Many do not realize that every can of sugared soda has ten teaspoons of sugar. Students must be more physically active, and develop healthy eating habits, in order to be academically successful, and develop healthy habits for life.”

The standards can be viewed at www.azed.gov, click on A-Z Service and then Nutrition Standards, Arizona.

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